

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today announced \$360,000 in grant funding to the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety through the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Program. The grants will be used to support and enhance state and local efforts to enforce laws prohibiting the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages to minors less than 21 years of age.

"This grant will help our law enforcement community keep our kids safe," Mitchell said. "This grant will provide important funding to allow state and local law enforcement agencies to coordinate effective youth alcohol enforcement programs. I look forward to seeing a positive benefit throughout Arizona as a result of this program."

Over two-thirds of Arizona's youth believe they can easily obtain alcohol. The goal of the 2009 EUDL program is to decrease the number of businesses that fail to comply with Arizona's liquor laws by coordinating a high-visibility enforcement campaign. [Source: Department of Justice Grant Notification, July 10, 2009].

The program will also support state-wide underage drinking enforcement activities, including High Visibility Enforcement, providing training, expanding state-wide and local media campaigns, supporting innovative prevention programs, and increasing underage drinking prevention awareness and programs among Arizona's Latino and Native American Communities.